

MONTANA STATE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: June 18, 2014

Agenda Item: Update on Strategic Planning Process

Division: Parks

Action Needed: None - Informational

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 30 minutes

Background:

The Parks Division is creating an updated strategic plan for the park system. This process will update the 1998 strategic plan through a series of public involvement processes, employee input, and board consideration. The process is expected to be concluded by the end of 2014.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

Following the April board meeting, focus group meetings were held in 8 locations around the state from April 21 to May 2: Glasgow, Glendive, Billings, Kalispell, Missoula, Whitehall, Helena, and Great Falls. A total of 117 people signed in at the meetings across the state. The focus group meetings discussed the values of the state parks system, identified changes and opportunities to enhance the system, and addressed challenges related to funding and management actions. An executive summary of the information gathered at the meetings will be shared at the Parks Board meeting and posted online at stateparks.mt.gov. In addition, full notes will be available for each of the meetings.

Additional public engagement for the planning process includes: A) Stakeholder conversations with key stakeholder groups. B) A public comment period that allows all Montana citizens to consider draft direction. C) Public comment summary on the draft plan to be provided to the board. D) Public comment on the final plan when the board considers the final document.

Alternatives and Analysis:

No alternatives beyond the no action alternative were considered. A strategic plan was chosen as the best course of action based on ongoing challenges in the division and direction from the board.

Agency Recommendation and Rationale:

Not Applicable

Proposed Motion:

Not Applicable